197 climbed on foot up the steep hillsides with an agility quite equal to my own. On another occasion I saw a villager alleged to be 120 years old, whose age must certainly have exceeded 100 years. He had a son aged 100 by a wife whom he had married in later life. This healthy longevity is the result of simple and clean living, which is common in Kurdistan.

• 167 To the stranger the Kurd may appear
181 dour and surly—like the lion—but within his exclusive circle he is smiling and welcoming with a childlike lack of discretion: the greatest asset is common knowledge within the tribe. The Kurd has learned

[text continued on p 198(B)]

[illegible]

[illegible] he is running in action because his preservation has always required action. On the other hand, until suitably he [illegible] concerned with those who were not of his tribe or family, and therefore the keyness of his speech is simplicity; the real 'savage' Kurd scarcely knows how to lie, and when he does he lies badly.

When a Kurd becomes riled up with words, or the running past into words which is the mainspring of humourous civilisation', he may momentarily feel that he is being tricked by something he does not understand, then, as we say, he 'runs red'. He suddenly realises the futility of words, and leaps to action behind the sharp edge of a dagger or the trigger of his rifle. Thus through a purely natural evolution caused by his environment the Kurd has acquired concepts which are understood him, as commonly experienced by forestry, treachery and lack of balance.

The Kurdish salesman has a childlike

The Kurdish fisherman has a childlike

sense of humour. Like a child, too, he unconsciously appreciates sympathy and an understanding of his psychology. It is partly because ruling races were indifferent to such considerations until the evolution of British colonial policy in backward countries that the Kurd has been accustomed to regard every foreign power as an enemy to be driven off or exterminated before he himself suffers a similar fate.

Like other mountain peoples the Kurds are a martial race, but owing to their separate communities and 'classifiers' they have never featured as such in modern history. The only Kurdish kingdom known to Europe is the ancient kingdom of the Medes. Nevertheless the Kurds have produced many great individual soldiers. Five and fourteen years Cyrus the Great, who united the Medes and Persians and in 538 B.C. conquered Babylon. Others have found fame as

[p. 38(c)]
[last words read on p 38(c)]